

Message Text

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ACTION COA-01

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 PM-03 OES-03 COME-00 DODE-00

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FM AMCONSULATE SURABAYA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0532

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMCONSUL MEDAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCLR, TGEN, ID

SUBJECT: VISIT OF SCRIPPS RESEARCH VESSEL R/V ALPHA HELIX -
NECESSARY PREPARATIONS

REFS: A. SURABAYA 110

B. STATE 33378

1. THE VISIT OF THE R/V THOMAS WASHINGTON TO SURABAYA FEBRUARY 8-12 (REF A) WAS SUCCESSFUL, AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO HAVING THE R/V ALPHA HELIX CALL DURING ITS VOYAGE IN INDONESIAN WATERS (REF B). THE ALPHA HELIX SHOULD BE OF EVEN GREATER INTEREST TO EAST JAVA, SINCE ITS MISSION IS MORE DIRECTLY RELATED TO A PRIMARY LOCAL CONCERN -- FISHERIES AND OTHER MARINE RESOURCES. WE WOULD HOPE, THEREFORE, THAT PROGRAM SIMILAR TO THAT CONDUCTED DURING R/V THOMAS WASHINGTON VISIT CAN BE ARRANGED FOR ALPHA HELIX. THE FOLLOWING THOUGHTS ON THIS SUBJECT STEM PARTIALLY FROM QUESTIONS THAT AROSE DURING THE THOMAS WASHINGTON VISIT, AND WE PASS THEM WITH THE SUGGESTION THAT THEY BE DISCUSSED WITH SCRIPPS NOW TO FACILITATE THE VOYAGE OF THE ALPHA HELIX IN INDONESIAN WATERS.

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2. WE NOTE FROM REF B THAT R/V ALPHA HELIX WILL BE CRUISING IN A HIGHLY SENSITIVE AREA OF THE ARCHIPELAGO. ALTHOUGH THE AREAS SPECIFIED IN PARA TWO REF. B ARE NOT IN OUR CONSULAR DISTRICT, THE INDONESIAN ARMADA (BASED IN SURABAYA) FREQUENTLY CONDUCTS ANTI-SMUGGLING PATROLS AND OTHER OPERATIONS IN THESE REGIONS. MOREOVER, BURU ISLAND IS THE SITE OF THE PKI DETENTION CAMP, AND ANY UNAUTHORIZED SHORE VISITS ON THAT ISLAND COULD CREATE A MAJOR INCIDENT. THE WATERS THROUGH WHICH THE SHIP WILL BE PASSING ARE ALSO SENSITIVE BECAUSE OF INDONESIAN CONCERN ABOUT POACHING BY FOREIGN TRAWLERS. VESSELS ARE OFTEN STOPPED AND SEARCHED AND ILLEGAL TRAWLERS USE VARIETY OF EXCUSES TO AVOID DETENTION. EAST JAVA WATERS, PARTICULARLY THE MADURA STRAITS, ARE OFF-LIMITS TO FOREIGN TRAWLING OF ANY KIND. CLEARANCES FOR THE XELIA HELIX EXPEDITION SHOULD SPECIFICALLY INCLUDE PERMISSION TO CONDUCT TRAWLING IF THIS IS NECESSARY FOR THE SHIP'S MISSION.

3. WE PRESUME JAKARTA LLOYD WILL AGAIN BE THE AGENT FOR THE VISIT. WE URGE THAT SCRIPPS CONTACT THE AGENT NOW BY CABLE AND OBTAIN CONFIRMATION THAT FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS FOR SHIPS EXPENSES ARE ACCEPTABLE TO DJAKARTA LLOYD, AND THAT DJAKARTA LLOYD HAS NOTIFIED ITS BRANCH OFFICES IN SURABAYA, AMBON AND OTHER PORTS OF CALL TO THIS EFFECT. ALSO, SCRIPPS SHOULD LET THE AGENT KNOW WELL IN ADVANCE WHAT FACILITIES WILL BE REQUIRED, INCLUDING EARLY NOTIFICATION OF AIR RESERVATIONS NEEDED FOR MEMBERS OF THE SHIP'S COMPLEMENT DEPARTING THE SHIP, ETC.

4. ALL MEMBERS OF THE SHIP'S COMPLEMENT SHOULD HAVE INDONESIAN VISAS. THIS MAY BE CRUCIAL FOR SHORE VISITS IN EAST INDONESIA. THOSE CARRIED AS CREW MEMBERS WITHOUT VISAS MAY GO ASHORE AT CERTAIN PORTS ROUTINELY, BUT IF THEY DECIDE TO LEAVE THE SHIP DEFINITELY, THEY MUST TAKE THE FIRST AVAILABLE TRANSPORTATION OUT OF INDONESIA.

5. THE QUESTION OF INDONESIAN CLEARANCES AND THEIR TRANSMISSION TO APPROPRIATE INDONESIAN AUTHORITIES IN THE FIELD WILL BE EXTREMELY IMPORTANT. IN THE CASE OF THE R/V THOMAS WASHINGTON, THE CONSULATE WAS ABLE TO PROVIDE COPIES OF THE INDONESIAN DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE CLEARANCES TO INDONESIAN AUTHORITIES IN SURABAYA, THANKS TO THE EMBASSY WHICH SENT COPIES TO US. THESE AUTHORITIES WOULD NOT HAVE OTHERWISE RECEIVED THEM. IT WILL BE CRUCIAL TO MAKE SURE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE CLEARANCES ARE RECEIVED IN AMBON, WHICH IS IN THE SIXTH NAVAL REGION, HEADQUARTERED IN BIAK. THE CLEARANCES MUST INCLUDE A "FLAG DISPENSATION" ISSUED BY THE DIRECTORATE OF SEA COMMUNICATION. COPIES OF CLEARANCES SHOULD ALSO BE SENT TO THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE FIFTH NAVAL REGION IN UJUNG PANDANG, AS WELL AS TO SURABAYA, AND THEIR RECEIPT CONFIRMED. SUFFICIENT TIME MUST BE ALLOWED FOR THIS PROCESS. THE AGENT SHOULD ALSO BE FURNISHED WITH ALL CLEARANCE DOCUMENTS.

6. THE PRESENCE OF TWO PERTAMINA SCIENTISTS, AND NAVAL OFFICER FROM A UNIT OF THE INDONESIAN ARMADA, GREATLY FACILITATED THE SUCCESS OF THE R/V THOMAS WASHINGTON VISIT. WORKING THROUGH PERTAMINA, THE NAVAL OFFICER OBTAINED A WAIVER OF THE FLAG DISPENSATION REQUIREMENT, WITHOUT WHICH THE SHIP WOULD NOT HAVE SAILED AS SCHEDULED. WE STRONGLY URGE THAT BERTHS BE PROVIDED ON THE ALPHA HELIX FOR AT LEAST THREE INDONESIAN PERSONNEL, WHO COULD JOIN THE SHIP AT AMBON. THIS WOULD ALSO FACILITATE THE PROCESS OF INFORMING THE LOCAL INDONESIAN COMMANDS OF THE VISIT.

7. THE ALPHA HELIX SHOULD BE INFORMED BEFORE THE VOYAGE THAT IT CAN COMMUNICATE DIRECTLY WITH THIS CONSULATE BY RADIO ON THE SAME FREQUENCY USED BY THE R/V THOMAS WASHINGTON. WE WOULD APPRECIATE KNOWING WHEN THE SHIP WILL COME WITHIN RADIO RANGE, SO WE CAN ESTABLISH DAILY CONTACTS TO PIN DOWN FINAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE PORT CALL IN SURABAYA. WE WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE RECEIVING INFO COPIES OF ALL DEPARTMENT/EMBASSY MESSAGES ON THIS SUBJECT.
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